

# Sweetwater Forerunner.

BY HUGH L. FRY.

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**TERMS:**  
THE FORERUNNER IS PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY  
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Communications, notices of insertion, must be accompanied by the name of the authors.

A curious poisoning case is under investigation in Lafayette, Ind. A malicious woman fed strychnine to a neighbor's hens, and the eggs produced by one of them afterward, badly poisoned a little daughter of the owner of the poultry.

**A KILLING FROST.**—With the change in temperature Sunday last came a killing frost. A gentleman, largely engaged in fruit raising near the city, informs us that all the cherries, peaches, apricots and plums in his garden and orchard are probably killed. The apples and other late fruits, he thinks, have escaped.—*Richmond Enquirer.*

The canvass on the constitution is going on briskly in North Carolina. Mr. Holden, the Radical candidate for Governor, and Mr. Ashe, the Conservative, are both in the field. Both sides claim the victory. An average of 200 speeches are made each day. The white people of the State have not been so much aroused in any election since 1844.

Mr. J. W. McIlvaine, of Woodford, Ky. has a jennet that has produced nine colts in four consecutive years, and from all appearances she will add several the present season to her already numerous progeny. She had twins three times, and triplets once. This is a remarkable case of fecundity in this species of animal, which do not generally produce their young in a rapid or regular manner.

Captain Thomas Garrett, of Chicago, proposes to cross the Atlantic, starting from that port, in a smaller vessel than has ever yet accomplished the feat. His boat will be built on a plan of his own, and of the following dimensions: Length over all not exceed twenty feet; breadth of beam, five feet and six inches; heel to gunwale, two feet and six inches. The boat is to be, in all essential respects, a life-boat; that is, it is to be self-righting and self-clearing. He will go through the lakes and down the St. Lawrence to the sea.

The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore American predicts "that no less than thirty-eight, and very probably forty Senators, will vote for the conviction of Andrew Johnson." Judge Curtis, one of the President's counsel, is reported to have expressed his belief "that the trial would be over by the 18th of April." Mr. Forney, the Secretary of the Senate, writes to the Philadelphia Press that "Every body is discussing the probable termination of impeachment. Judging by the way the Managers are putting through their witnesses, and the comparatively small number that remain, three weeks would seem a very long time to finish the work."

**THE FLAG IN THE SOUTH.**—Sergeant Bates, who has been traveling through the Southern States, carrying a United States flag, as he laid a wager he could do without molestation from the Mississippi to Washington, seems to have nearly finished his task, having arrived safely at Raleigh, North Carolina. Instead of being assailed or even annoyed, the old soldier has received marked demonstrations of respect, courtesy and hospitality from the Southern people all along the line of his extended march. It is not surprising, therefore, to find a radical journal endeavoring to injure the military record of Sergeant Bates when in the United States army, and to represent that he was a rather indifferent soldier. But if that were true, it in no wise diminishes the significance of the fact that the flag has traveled through the whole South and been respected, though carried in the hands of only one man, and, according to the radicals, not much of a man at that. It will be observed that the only assault upon the United States standard-bearer has come from a radical source, and that this has been reserved till all hope was given up that some disloyal Southern would assassinate the sergeant, in which event we should have heard of him only as one of the heroes of the war, and a martyr at the shrine of patriotism.—*Balt. Sun.*

## Short Paragraphs.

There were seventy-five deaths in Orleans last week.

The cold weather has severely injured the peach crop in the vicinity of St. Louis.

There were sixty-nine fires in New York last month, involving losses to the amount of about half a million.

A few days ago a vessel arrived in New York from Liverpool, having thirty-two professional pick-pockets on board.

The President has declined to exercise Executive clemency in the case of Wells, sentenced to prison at Frankfort, Kentucky, for ten years, charged with being a guerilla, robber, etc.

A suit brought in one of the courts of New Orleans by Judah P. Benjamin for recovery of fees for legal services before the war, has been decided adversely to the plaintiff, on the ground that he forfeited his rights and credits by participating in rebellion.

A child in the arms of its mother was killed in New Orleans on the 5th inst. by a ball from a Monte Cristo rifle, fired from a garret window a square distant. The police have arrested the man who fired the shot, which is said to have been an accidental one.

Civilization is advancing with rapid strides in the young territory of Montana. They have just selected grounds for a penitentiary at Deer Lodge City, and the necessary buildings are to be erected at once. It is now costing \$30,000 a year to maintain the convicts.

The McConnellsville Herald announces the death of John Cray, supposed to be the last surviving soldier of the American Revolution. It occurred at the residence of his daughter, near Hiramshurg, Noble county, Ohio, on the 29th ult. Mr. Cray had just completed his 104th year, having been born early in 1764.

For the first time for years the privilege of a member of Congress was pleaded in the courts of Washington on the 7th inst. in a case of debt. Senator Sprague, of Rhode Island, pleaded his privilege as Senator against his late gardener, Wm. McCanna, who wanted to bring an action for a small debt. Under the privilege no member can be sued here or while coming from or returning to his home.

John Reeves, a carpenter, was murdered at Torre Haute, on the 6th inst., by a former employee named John L. Stevens. The cause of murder appears to be that Stevens claimed money which Reeves had already paid for Stevens' board, and on Reeves refusing to pay it over, Stevens deliberately shot him three times, killing him instantly. Stevens was immediately arrested and is now in jail.

A corporal named Henderson, attached to the garrison at Columbia, South Carolina, who was tried by court martial, a few days ago, and found guilty of striking Col. Guenther, while on duty, was sentenced by the court to be reduced to the ranks, drummed out of camp, to have his head shaved, to forfeit all pay, and to be imprisoned for three years at hard labor in Fort Macon; and during the term of his imprisonment to wear a ball weighing thirty-two pounds, attached to a thirty-six inch chain.

Negro equality is not popular with soldiers. A few days ago one Tucker addressed the negroes about Warrenton, advising them not to work for any one without they were admitted to the family circle, and otherwise recognized as equal. The soldiers became so incensed that they made an assault on him, and the officers of that post had to escort him to the depot, to save him from the infuriated soldiers. Citizens took no part in the difficulty. The result of his teachings is the negroes have left their employers, and are living on the Bureau. The lessee of White Sulphur Springs, Virginia, lost fifty freedmen, employed at good wages, as he refuses to comply with their demands, as instigated by Tucker.

## THE DEATH PENALTY.

EXECUTION OF TWO NEGROES IN NORTH CAROLINA—SCENES AT THE SCAFFOLD.

On Friday the 3d instant, the execution of two negroes, John Taylor and Jim Knight, took place at Tarborough, North Carolina, for the foul murder of a young man named John H. Catehen.

From a telegraphic account of the execution in the New York Herald, we copy the following:

### DAY OF THE EXECUTION.

The entire morning was black, well befitting the tragic event of the day. Rain fell incessantly, but this did not prevent the assemblage of an immense crowd. Every road leading to town was thronged with blacks, male and female, and a special train brought a large number from Nash and Halifax and the upper portion of this county in the neighborhood of Whitaker's station, where the murder was perpetrated. By ten o'clock the streets were lined from end to end with negroes. The rain beat down in torrents almost, and already a large crowd of excited and wondering freedmen were gathered within sight of the terrible scaffold, the coffin and the ominous grave, dug a little to the right, in rear of the scaffold. Around the jail, on the west side of the town, the guard, blacks and whites, armed with old rifles, shotguns and muskets, were assembled. The shackles were stricken from the condemned by a Mr. Palmountain, a gunsmith, and now, for the first time, the assumed savage fortitude of John Taylor began to give way, and although he well endeavored to maintain his blasphemous, bravado air, a nervous twitching of the muscles of the face could be seen, and his legs and arms were frequently convulsively jerked, giving unmistakable evidence of guilt and a banishment of his false courage. Knight remained the same, calmer if possible than he had been heretofore. Two colored preachers remained with them the entire morning, offering prayers and alternately conversing with them; but in this truce Taylor did not once touch upon the crime while Knight spoke freely, steadfastly denying any knowledge of it. Both seemed penitent and asserted their peace was made with their Maker.

The terrible death penalty read that the condemned be taken from the jail of Edgecomb county to the place of public execution at Tarborough, and there be hanged by the neck until both were dead, between the hours of ten A. M. and four P. M.

### SCENES ABOUT THE SCAFFOLD.

Precisely at half-past eleven they were taken from their cell and led forth into the centre of a square formed by the guard and in accordance with their expressed wish were marched to the scaffold. The solemn procession moved slowly through the mud in the streets, encountering a cold, pelting rain, accompanied by attendant crowds of sable citizens, among whom were no inconsiderable number of women. Fifteen minutes later and the scaffold was reached, the prisoners maintaining all the while a dogged silence, Taylor looking defiant, Knight calm and resigned. At the scaffold a dense crowd, mostly black, was collected, and the heights just above on the side of the town were covered by an immense multitude of over six thousand persons. The rain still descended, but without any effect on the sable mass, who seemed to be fascinated by a morbid and depraved curiosity to witness an execution.

### ON THE SCAFFOLD.

Accompanied by Benjamin T. Hart, the Sheriff, the condemned fearlessly ascended the steps of the scaffold, taking seats on the two new chairs provided especially for the occasion. A brief conversation with their respective spiritual advisers then ensued, in which both continued to assert their innocence, Taylor emphatically at one time using an oath, saying he knew nothing about it, in a sullen, savage tone. Knight appeared throughout to be resigned to his fate, which both seemed anxious to meet, probably from the fact that they could not fully realize their terrible position.

### THE LAST VIEW.

A short and excellent prayer by one of the colored clergymen, which was listened to with an impressive earnestness by the surrounding thousands, followed. Farewell was taken, when the Sheriff and assistant proceeded to pinion the victims. This being completed two white caps were placed over their heads, forever shutting out the light of heaven, the fatal rope was adjusted firmly and securely round both their necks, and at this moment Taylor

broke forth into an incoherent address, exhorting the multitude who then listened, white and black, to pray, and stating a day would soon come when the bad and the good would appear before their Maker. This ended at a quarter past 12 o'clock. The rope was cut with a hatchet by an assistant, and the bodies of John Taylor and Jim Knight fell some four feet. The former struggled a good deal, the latter but little, and soon their souls were in eternity. Just as the bodies were suspended, a piercing and almost unearthly shriek rent the air, which was followed by several others, and on one of the adjacent hills quite an excited movement was observed among the assembled Africans. Numbers ran to the spot and there was found one of the concubines of John Taylor, upon whose evidence he was convicted, yelling and screaming in a manner harrowing to one's nerves in the midst of such a solemn scene. Nearly at the same moment a number of freedmen made a rush upon the rear portion of the guard, as if to get through it, when, their muskets being levelled upon them, they quickly retreated. After hanging fifteen minutes life was declared extinct by the attending surgeons. The bodies were cut down and consigned to their last earthly resting place. Close to the scaffold upon which they paid the penalty of one of the most foul of modern crimes, slowly and seemingly reluctant, as if spellbound by some fearful hallucination, the crowd dispersed, and the graves were left alone. On the ground where the scaffold's victims only sleep night came and all was still.

### AN EPISODE IN REAL LIFE.

Not far from a flourishing village, in Northern Iowa, there lived with his wife a well-to-do farmer, by the common name of Smith. They had lived happily together eighteen or twenty years, and four handsome, intelligent children blessed their union. But they were not content, and eventually agreed to part, tired of living together. So, one bright winter morning, the husband and father bade a kind good-bye to his family and took his leave. He went to Wisconsin, engaged in the mercantile business there, occasionally writing to his wife and children, sending them money, etc. After an absence of seven or eight months, Mrs. Smith received a letter from her absent lord, informing her that he had met an old schoolmate and intimate friend of hers, whom he liked very much, and if she (the wife) thought best, he would marry her, return to this village, and reside near them, the better to look after her welfare and that of their children. The wife immediately wrote, advising him to do so, and cordially inviting them to come directly to her house, and remain as long as they wished. He thanked her for the advice and accepted the invitation, saying that they were to be married the following Monday, and would start immediately, and reach home Wednesday evening. The wife made a "bride's loaf," sent invitations to all her friends in the neighborhood, and when the happy couple arrived they found a splendid entertainment and a goodly company awaiting them, and were warmly welcomed and congratulated by all. They furnished a house across the street, and live "as happy as bugs in a rug." Every morning the father goes over, builds a fire, sweeps the floor, and puts on the kettle for Mrs. Smith No. 1, and furnishes her with money for the support of herself and family. The children call one "Mother Jane," and the other "Mother Susan," and the utmost harmony and good feeling prevails on all sides.

**KUKLUX IN GEORGIA.**—General Meade has issued an order directed at the Kuklux in his district, ordering the arrest of any parties sending Kuklux letters, or connecting themselves with the organization. He forbids the conductors of all newspapers, job printing or other presses from printing or publishing any articles or papers calculated to produce intimidation, riot or bloodshed; and declares that any newspaper containing any such publications or press publishing the same, will be stopped, and its proprietors, editors and other parties connected therewith, on being convicted before a military commission, will be subjected to fine and imprisonment or such other penalties as may be deemed suitable to the offense committed.

All public writers and speakers are enjoined to refrain from inflammatory appeals to the passions and prejudices of the people, and from publishing or saying anything calculated to produce breaches of the peace, or to intimidate any persons from the exercise of their political privileges.

Remember always that a soft answer turneth away wrath.

## Business and Professional Cards.

**A. J. VAUGHN,**  
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All kinds of Produce taken in pay.  
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